



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE GENERAL ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

The Constitution of the GAS 2nd Conference: What has come about

From the announcement made by the Social Science Section of the School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum about the 2nd Conference on the Constitution that took place on the 24th-26th November 2023

At Christmas 2023, the Anthroposophical Society enters its second century.

For self-knowledge and for development as a society, as well as in preparing for this step, it is necessary to transform what has so far been neglected and unresolved. In this way, the path into the future may become unencumbered and powerful. This applies above all to the tragic events surrounding the constitution of the Anthroposophical Society, which continue to have an impact until the present day.

At Christmas 1923/24, Rudolf Steiner re-founded the Anthroposophical Society. Through his preparation and guidance, a unique process of incarnation took place, which transformed the spiritual as well as the earthly (social) world in a hitherto unknown way. This is the foundation on which we stand today as members of the Anthroposophical Society. That is our common understanding. But the reality is

different. During the Christmas conference, Rudolf Steiner pointed out that the constitution had not yet been completed. In particular, his attempts to "form the appropriate relationship with the Association of the Goetheanum" (the so-called Bauverein [or the 'Building Association' in English]; GA 260, p. 110), were not fully completed during his lifetime.

Decisions taken after his death in an effort to implement this appropriate relationship resulted in the absorption of the Society founded at Christmas 1923, which henceforth continued to live on within the (legal) body of the former Association of the Goetheanum from 1925 onwards. How did this happen? And what does it mean for today's Anthroposophical Society? Which statutes apply in fact – and which should be valid in the future?

The open working group on the constitutional question, initiated by the Section for Social Sciences and under the auspices of the board of the General Anthroposophical Society and the Anthroposophical Society in Germany, has largely completed its work, which began in 2019. Its report documents the events that have been suppressed for such a long time.

Now we invite all members interested in an earnest striving for knowledge to an open, common exchange: What does this outcome mean for our society – today and tomorrow? How can we come to terms with what happened? How might it be healed? And how can we, commensurate with Rudolf Steiner's original intentions, make our society fit for the future from a spiritual, legal and economic point of view?



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Here is a reflection by David Morgan, who participated in this 2nd Conference online.

Reflection by David Morgan

I was inspired from Thomas Heck's contribution (Saturday 25th) where he showed us the handwritten notes by Rudolf Steiner for the Foundation Conference and the drafts for the Jan 13 Newsletter. Thomas drew attention to the "A"s, both lower and upper case, especially the round, capitalised 'A' for Allgemeinen [ed. 'General'] and the pointy 'A' for Anthroposophischen (gratitude from a 'periphery-located member for 'central-located' members' access to the wealth of archive material!).

When I try to follow selflessly into the mood of Rudolf Steiner here, it is possible to sense the struggle in enabling the Anthroposophical Society and the anthroposophical movement to live as one being through a creative, original act that was still in the process of being incarnated fully. Rudolf Steiner sought to give an esoteric impulse (the anthroposophical movement) agency in earthly life and to enable this he had to find an appropriate outer social form, a garment that would be recognised and able to operate in earthly life, while fully maintaining its inner efficacy and truly human quality.

In the capitalising of the 'round A', we can sense Rudolf Steiner's creative search for something that had not yet existed, that could become recognized as a new, human social form. Did this creative gesture then "die" with the practical limitations of the typesetter and the publishing time? No! - the Initiate would then have 'listened' for what next presented itself to still realise the original intention. When we can give such seemingly insignificant actions our most careful attention, they can become fruitful in understanding Rudolf Steiner's intention.

The search for right outer form for the most open, yet truly esoteric association continued, as we know, through the intense activity of 1924 and Rudolf Steiner's illness, until February 1925

when he agreed that the Building Association (already having recognition in Swiss public life) would carry and represent the General Anthroposophical Society in the outer life of rights through its re-naming.

While appearing simple as a concept, "three-folding" becomes incredibly complex and intricate as Rudolf Steiner showed in the lectures concerning the human body and the sources of illness [GA221]. For the process of incarnation must grapple with and 'accommodate' the intervention of spiritual beings who are not in accord with the harmonious progress of evolution.

The Building Association being taken up as the outer body for the General Anthroposophical Society need not cause us alarm or to seek somehow to 'correct' an apparent inconsistency. The "Christmas Conference Society / Foundation Society" lives esoterically for those connected with it. The 'outer garment' is just that, -a form that is recognised by and comfortable for the outer world. Preoccupation with the finer points of the various (outer) forms need to be recognised as an Ahrimanic distraction. it is no surprise or coincidence that such distractions have become more intense at the 100- and 1000-year anniversaries of the progressive spirit-impulses in human evolution.

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Many of the contributors during the 2nd conference have spoken of and appreciated that seemingly incompatible positions and views have begun to shift. Human warmth in the social process has enabled a thawing and softening in what was rigidly held.

It was notable to me, that so many contributors spoke of the importance of the social aspect of the anthroposophical society in their work in understanding the Society's Constitution. My impressions:

<Can different points of view shed light on the problem? We don't have a form for anthroposophical life, people need to find each other and get together out of their development> T Heck;

<Foundation Stone [shows] how to have [vessels] for the Hierarchies to work> C-P Bodack;

<In the re-founded General Anthroposophical Society, a new impulse, social interaction. 'We are a will community'. Mystery of communal will.> Michaela Gloeckler;

<It is necessary to have a communal understanding of the G.A.S.> Eva Lohmann-Heck;

Gerald Hafner captured the mood in wanting to work through the difficulties of the Statutes by doing this together with all those involved, inside and outside the Society.

In the progress that is unfolding through the constitution conferences and the

members' forums it feels that goodwill is being consciously sought.

Here for me is a reminder of the Christmas Foundation meditation sequence. When each has inwardly prepared (practiced) through what hier* brings from their biography, from inspiration and from a sensitive openness to the other, there is the possibility for true, comprehensive meeting and working with each other ('what we would ...'). Here too, is the essence of Rudolf Steiner's Christmas re-founding, with the support of the spiritual world; -the creation of a truly human social form grounded in the new Christian

mysteries ('where two or three are gathered in My Name ...').

If everything we do towards reviewing the Constitution can carry, honour and enable the inner intention of Rudolf Steiner's Christmas Conference re-founding, then it will be soundly based.

David Morgan AU 26-27 Nov 2023

* hier = he/she, his/her



THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ANTHROPOSOPHICAL SOCIETY IN AUSTRALIA

Parallel to the question of the Constitution of the General Anthroposophical Society, the Australian Society is also in the process of reviewing its Constitution. A meeting to discuss this was held in Kew last month. Here is a report by Dianne Schiller.

Meeting Report by Dianne Schiller

On Saturday 18th November a group met in Kew, including general members of the Vic branch, Committee members and Michael Group representatives.

We discussed the unfolding situation in Dornach around constitutional matters, aspects of the Victorian Branch Constitution, particularly in relation to both Dornach, as well as the work currently being done with the ASinA Constitution.

Fruitful conversations were had that revealed various helpful perspectives, which gave a better understanding of the situation, here in Australia and in Dornach. At the same time we also recognised the need for significant ongoing dialogue.

Another meeting is scheduled for 24th February 2024, and a warm invitation is extended to all interested parties. Please contact Birgith Lugosi if you would like to attend.



FORUM – SHARING THOUGHTS & QUESTIONS

***Is WHO (World Health Organisation)
fit for purpose?
and should the Anthroposophical
Society be allied and subject to it?
– James Gillan***

On the hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Anthroposophical Society in the midst of wars in Ukraine and Gaza and the Holy Land it is perhaps appropriate to revisit the poem by William Butler Yeats “The Second Coming”.

...
*Things fall apart; the centre cannot
hold;
Mere anarchy is loosed upon the world,
The blood-dimmed tide is loosed and
everywhere
The ceremony of innocence is
drowned;
The best lack all conviction, while the
worst
Are full of passionate intensity.*
...
*And what rough beast, its hour come
round at last,
Slouches towards Bethlehem to be
born?*

Thought to have been referring to the rise of International and subsequently National Socialism in 1919 and amidst the Irish Civil war, it raises many spectres now in our time, and this article poses the title question to be one possible ‘rough beast’ that merits discussion.

The WHO is developing plans for a new set of relationships with sovereign countries that, in the event of a new world epidemic, would give WHO power of over all sovereign governments in an effort to stifle the harmful effects of such an epidemic. These proposals are intended to be completed by May 2024. Countries would have to opt out of this agreement. It is led by a Communist, Dr T Ghebreyesus. whose political affiliation has been to the Tigray People’s Liberation Front. This likely makes him less sensitive to issues of personal and national rights in the pursuit of an imagined common good. That is to being captured by Lucifer with the promise of being good. but without freedom or led by Ahriman’s cold logic in the face of fear. As the world struggles towards finding a governance for a one world order we know, as Anthroposophists, that the first prerequisite is understanding the three-fold social order and developing ways of implementing it in the modern world.

Why is WHO not fit for its task?

The fruits of anthroposophy tend to stem from the Cultural Sphere where freedom is the underlying governing principal. The WHO however derives from the Political Sphere where equality is the underlying governing principal. This body is appointed by the political sphere but not subject to reference to an electorate, which would have hopefully safeguarded the efficacy of political institutions.

Secondly the WHO has revealed itself to be substantially flawed in its exercise of its responsibilities regarding COVID, an illness most harmful to those approaching the end of life but otherwise similar to 'flu. It criticised and delayed the restrictions of travel from China, the source of the COVID outbreak. The cost was thousands, perhaps millions, of lives of mostly elderly people. It has not taken any measures to prevent, perhaps, *gain of function* research now confirmed as the cause of the release of the disease. It initially denied the lab leak theory.

It supported lockdowns as the best way to control the virus which was a severe threat fatal mostly to a small and discreet part of the population. Instead of recommending focusing on protecting this group they damaged the whole population by espousing lockdowns destroying businesses, keeping children from social interaction and schooling and prevented, by the wearing of masks, people from normal human interaction.

This decision process was exacerbated perhaps as the political leader abandoned the role of premier in which he or she was responsible for the governance of the whole state including the three spheres of Culture, Economy, and Politics, to become the minister of health. Seemingly lured by the prospect of daily news conferences providing endless opportunities to appear masterful and decisive but leaving no one in charge with the 'big picture' in mind and

capable of moderating the harms done to the whole population.

The social impacts of the lockdowns of increased fear, itself a significant co-morbidity, alcoholism, increased divorce and the strain on marriages that survived, etc. will reverberate through to the next generation. In addition the normalising of the loss of long cherished freedoms will have hidden repercussions for a long time to come. Police became transformed from being the guardians of the public to being their oppressors.

Finally the extraordinary fact of excess deaths following the vaccination programme and the total lack of curiosity in what could be causing this excess by the WHO and complicit governments is damning in itself.

The debt in Victoria is projected to rise to \$241 billion (41% of GSP) by the next financial year according to the Australian Financial Review. Again it will be the next generation that will pay for this flowing from WHO's policy response to COVID.

It is submitted that this 'rough beast slouching towards Bethlehem' should be directed to the country of the Gadarenes, where madness was consigned to swine by Christ, or at the very least it should be reformed and sited clearly in the Cultural sphere where freedom of choice is paramount. Then Anthroposophy could engage with it.



USEFUL THINGS TO KNOW ...

LINKS and CONTACTS

Visit these websites for further information:

The General Anthroposophical Society: goetheanum.org/en

«*Anthroposophy Worldwide: What is happening in the Anthroposophical Society*» appears monthly in German, English, French and Spanish for members of the Anthroposophical Society. To subscribe, visit:

goetheanum.ch/en/society/order-anthroposophy-worldwide-neu

The Goetheanum uses the platform goetheanum.tv to put together films and recordings of interviews, lectures and artistic presentations. Most of the platform's content is in English and German, either in the original language or with subtitles.

The School of Spiritual Science at the Goetheanum: goetheanum.co/en/school

The Anthroposophical Society in Australia: www.anthroposophyau.org.au

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SCHOOL OF SPIRITUAL SCIENCE

Meetings of the First Class: Please check with the class holders.

KEW - 2 Union Street

4th Sunday of month at 10am*

2nd Friday of month at 7.30pm*

Class Holder: (Free rendering)

Birgith Lugosi 0448 844 453

WARRANWOOD 37A Wellington Park Drive

3rd Sunday of month at 10am; Feb. to Nov.

Class Holders: (Free rendering)

Guenter Zimmermann 0417 309 276

David Morgan 0401 999 402

ESOTERIC DEVELOPMENT GROUP for Class Members

WARRANWOOD 37A Wellington Park Drive.

1st Sunday of Month at 10am Rob Gordon 0417 033 744

VIC NEWS - THE NEWSLETTER OF THE VICTORIAN BRANCH

Please send your member news, reports, initiatives and creative contributions by email to:
The Editor anthroposvic@gmail.com

Advertising in the Newsletter

Cost for advertisements in the Newsletter of a commercial nature:

\$50 for full page; \$25 for half page; \$15 for a quarter page, or attachment /flyer of equivalent size. Cost to be paid into the Vic Branch Account at the time of submission of the ad.

Direct transfer deposit to **Bank Australia: BSB 313-140; Account No. 12051301**
("Anthroposophical Society in Australia – Victoria Branch")

Identify your transaction with: "your name, Ad" and email a copy of the fund transfer receipt to: asvictreasurer@gmail.com

CLOSING DATE 20th January 2024 for articles for the next edition to be out in early 2024

Editorial Note

*There have been many meetings and conferences in Australia and all over the world to look towards the next 100 years of the General Anthroposophical Society. Here is the third issue of the Vic News this year, in which David Morgan shares his impressions of the (online) conference to look at the Constitution of the General Anthroposophical Society. We thought it important to deliver this to you **before** our Christmas Conference at the Michael Centre later this month. 🌀 🌀 🌀 We are still planning another issue of the Newsletter during the summer to report on the Christmas Conference. And for that, of course, we need people who would write their reports and reflections on the Conference. These need not be long dissertations. Rather, it is better for our 'community building' if many people share different aspects of the Conference from various angles. That's what the Anthroposophical Society is for—a community of people who wish to bring spiritual perspectives to their individual and social life. Please send us your articles. All contributions are welcome. –YH*

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